

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD has host of mental health supports to benefit students and staff

Communications Office

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Charleston, SC – National Suicide Prevention Week is being recognized this year from September 4 – 10, 2022. In recognition of that Charleston County School District (CCSD) wants to make students, staff, and families aware of the [many mental health supports in place](#).

According to CCSD Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator, Marques Johnson, it is important to note that the mental health supports in place in CCSD should be considered a continuum of supports.

“CCSD anchors the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Framework, which aligns with the continuum concept,” said Johnson. “MTSS allows for targeted support for students. Mental health supports in our schools are tiered in order to be more effective and to meet student needs.”

Both the pandemic and social justice issues in recent years have put a spotlight on mental health and wellness.

Fronde Stille, CCSD Director of School Counseling Services said that society has developed a better awareness of need and maybe less of a stigma around seeking and providing mental health support.

“CCSD has a renewed commitment to making sure that those supports are equitably distributed and accessible,” said Stille. “Starting with the adults, we have allocated funds for both wellness initiatives including trauma informed educator training, self-care strategies and calming rooms in schools. For our students, we have increase our number of mental health professionals in schools such as clinical counselors, school psychologists, and social workers, to support students not only at school, but also help families connect to resources outside of school when the need arises.”

These professionals not only provide direct support to students at school, but they are also available to help families connect to resources outside of

school when the need arises. CCSD has also invested in additional wellness curriculum options for middle and high schools.

“Our goal is to provide safe and supportive environments that normalize a need for strategies to help manage things from everyday stress to significant trauma,” Stille explained.

There is federal government funding currently in place to provide these additional supports and CCSD is committed to sustaining the level of support needed to support our school communities.

“We recognize that the need doesn’t end with the funding,” said Stille. “We are proactively identifying ways to track the impact of our support so that we will be able to identify the highest leverage resources that we will want to continue with other funding sources available.”

While the departments typically involved in student support like counseling services, psychological services, alternative programs and services, and special education have taken the lead in this work, other departments such as the Office of Family and Community Engagement, curriculum and instruction, early learning, nursing, and school leadership teams also actively engage in mental wellness initiatives.

For more information, contact the Communications Office at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), music and other creative and performing arts, career and technical preparation programs, and military.